Sending Indian Workers to Foreign Countries

796. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the asnswer to Unstared Question 849 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st August, 1994 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of private firms have started a business of sending Indian skilled and unskilled workers to foreign countries and mining lot of money by sponsoring them and if so, the details of such companies in Delhi and Bombay;

(b) whether it is also a fact that large number of persons have been cheated by these firms ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No private firms are permitted to send Indian skilled and unskilled workers to foreign countries unless they are registered with the Ministry of Labour and also follow certain procedures laid down for this purpose. Details of such Recruiting Agents of Delhi and Bombay registered with Ministry of Labour is being compiled and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) During 1994 till date, 24 complaints of cheating have been received against recruiting agents of Delhi and Bombay.

Declaration of Agricultural Labour Policy

797 SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are interested in declaring the Agricultural Labour Policy soon;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the said policy; and

(c) if not, whether Government are seriously thinking to introduce any such policy in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The Government aims to improve the Living and working conditions of agricultural workers through an improvement of infrastructural facilities; diversification into non-farm activities, increasing employment opportunities through schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY); Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) etc. and by better implementation of the existing labour legislations including the Minimum Wages Act, the Contract Lbour (R & A) Act, 1970, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen's Act, the Equal Remuneration Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, etc. in their application to agricultural labour. The 8th plan is also laying considerable stress on creation of employment opportunities in the farm and non-farm sectors in rural areas.

In addition, a legislation to regulate the employment, conditions of service and welfare is also being finalised.

Workers Ingaged in organised sector in Gujarat

798. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers engaged in organised sector in the state of Gujarat;

(b) whether Government have agreed to provide funds for the welfare measures undertaken by the State Government for those workers during 1994-95;